

# Northern Copperhead

## Northern Copperhead - *VENOMOUS* - PL.19

(*Agkistrodon contortix mokasen*)

**Identification:** 22" - 53". The Copperhead, with its red-brown ground color and darker crossbands, is easily camouflaged in the leaf litter of a forest floor. The dark brown, saddle-shaped crossbands are narrow on top and wide on the sides. The Copperhead has scattered dark spots in lighter areas. As the name indicates, the triangular, unmarked head is a copper color. The young have a yellow tail tip. Scales are weakly keeled; anal plate is single.

**Where to find them:** Favors rocky, wooded uplands and wooded wetlands; may be found hiding in rotting woodpiles, or perfectly camouflaged on leafy forest floor. The Copperhead will den with other species of snakes in the winter, particularly the Timber Rattlesnake.

**When to find them:** Active May through October.

**Range:** Rocky talus slopes and forest habitats in the Northern Region. These habitats are scattered throughout the Northern Region, but are primarily located in Sussex, Warren, Hunterdon, and Passaic Counties.

**WARNING: Do NOT attempt to handle this snake!**

## Northern Copperhead - *VENOMOUS!*

(*Agkistrodon contortix mokasen*) - text pg. 28



### Key Features

- Coppery-red head.
- Dark "hourglass" shaped bands that are wider on sides than top (compare with water snake - Pl. 10).
- Shovel-shaped head.
- Vertical pupils and facial pit.
- Scales weakly keeled.



New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife ~ 2002



Excerpt from: "Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey"  
Order the complete guide at - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/products.htm>